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### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MIAMI-FORT LAUDERDALE—FEBRUARY 2003

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 1.3 percent over the past two months to a level of 180.3 (1982-84=100), not seasonally adjusted, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin announced that for the 12-month period ending in February, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 3.0 percent.

Over the two months, higher costs for housing and transportation accounted for most of the increase in the all items index. Energy costs increased 6.8 percent and food prices rose 0.6 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale rose 1.0 percent since December.

Table A. Percent changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for Miami-Fort Lauderdale by expenditure category (not seasonally adjusted).

Expenditure category	Percentage change	
	Over 12 months since February 2002	Over 2 months since December 2002
All items	3.0	1.3
Food and beverages	1.1	0.6
Housing	3.0	1.2
Apparel	-5.3	1.7
Transportation	7.8	3.2
Medical care	4.3	0.7
Recreation 1/	1.9	2.0
Education and communication 1/	1.8	-0.7
Other goods and services	1.7	0.4

1/ Index on a December 1997=100 base.

Over the 12 months ending in February 2003, prices in Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 3.0 percent compared to the 1.8 percent annual increase recorded in February 2002. Energy costs increased 14.7 percent, the largest 12-month increase in the index since July 2000. Food costs rose 1.2 percent. Excluding food and energy, the index has risen 2.4 percent since February 2002.

Among the major groups, the food and beverages index increased 0.6 percent. Costs for food at home increased 0.5 percent, and costs for food away from home rose 0.7 percent. Costs for alcoholic

beverages increased 0.7 percent over the past two months. Over the past year, the food and beverage index has risen by 1.1 percent as costs for food at home increased 0.9 percent, and costs for food away from home rose 1.7 percent.

Housing costs increased 1.2 percent in the January-February pricing period due to a 1.5 percent rise in the cost of shelter. The shelter index reflects changes in the costs for rent of primary residence, lodging away from home, and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence. The fuels and utilities index declined 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the housing index increased 3.0 percent due to a 5.0 percent rise in shelter costs. Costs for fuel and utilities decreased 3.7 percent over the year, primarily due to the falling costs of electricity (-6.0 percent).

Apparel costs increased 1.7 percent, compared with a 2.4 percent increase recorded in the previous pricing period. Since February 2002, the apparel index has decreased 5.3 percent.

Transportation costs increased 3.2 percent in the two months ending in February. Motor fuel costs rose 12.1 percent after decreasing 2.2 percent in the two months ending in December. Over the past year, the transportation index has increased 7.8 percent, while costs for motor fuel rose 39.5 percent. In February, the motor fuel index recorded the largest 12-month increase since March 2000.

Other indexes reported include the medical care index, which increased 0.7 percent since December. Over the past 12 months, the medical care index has increased 4.3 percent. The recreation index increased 2.0 percent over the past two months, and costs for education and communication dropped 0.7 percent. Over the past 12 months, recreation costs have risen 1.9 percent, and costs for education and communication increased 1.8 percent. Costs for other goods and services registered a 0.4 percent increase in the January-February time period bringing the index to a level 1.7 percent higher than it was in February 2002.

### **Consumer Price Index for the South and Atlanta**

Consumer price indexes are published for the Atlanta area and the South (which includes the Atlanta and Miami-Fort Lauderdale areas). For the two months ending in February, consumer prices increased 1.9 percent in the Atlanta area. The South's CPI-U showed an increase of 0.7 percent over two months. For the 12 months ending in February 2003, the Atlanta area reported a 2.6 percent increase for all items, while the South's CPI-U increased 3.2 percent.

## **Technical Notes**

The Consumer Price Index for Miami-Fort Lauderdale is published bi-monthly. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has updated the consumption expenditure weights in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) to the 1999-2000 period, effective with the release of data for January 2002. The newer weights replace the 1993-95 weights, which were first used in the index effective with January 1998 data. Additionally, CPI expenditure weights will be updated at two-year intervals subsequent to the 2002 updating. Thus, for example, CPI expenditure weights will be updated to the 2001-02 period effective with the release of CPI data for January 2004.

Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CPI program. Because each local index is a small subset of the national index, it has a smaller sample size and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and measurement error than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. The Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

We encourage users interested in learning more about changes to the CPI to contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys are available on our web site at <http://www.bls.gov>. Current and historical BLS data are also posted on our Internet page at <http://www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm>. CPI data are also available through our fax-on-demand system. For a catalog of items available to be faxed to you, call our fax-on-demand number at (404) 331-3403. If you have additional questions, you can contact the Atlanta information office directly by dialing (404) 331-3415, and customers in the Miami area can reach us at (305) 358-2305.

Table 1. Consumer price index for all urban consumers and urban wage earners and clerical workers, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida, (1982-84=100), not seasonally adjusted.

Group	All urban consumers			Urban wage earners and clerical workers		
	Index February 2003	Percent change to Feb 2003 from		Index February 2003	Percent change to Feb 2003 from	
		Feb 2002	Dec 2002		Feb 2002	Dec 2002
All items	180.3	3.0	1.3	178.0	3.3	1.5
All items (Nov. 1977=100)	290.6	-	-	289.2	-	-
Food and beverages	185.8	1.1	0.6	184.9	1.1	0.7
Food	186.4	1.2	0.6	186.0	1.2	0.8
Food at home	183.6	0.9	0.5	181.9	0.9	0.8
Food away from home	192.3	1.7	0.7	194.8	1.7	0.7
Alcoholic beverages	180.9	-0.2	0.7	169.4	0.7	0.1
Housing	172.3	3.0	1.2	171.0	3.2	1.3
Shelter	186.5	5.0	1.5	186.7	5.1	1.7
Rent of primary residence	172.8	4.5	0.5	172.8	4.5	0.5
Owners' equivalent rent (1)	186.9	4.7	0.4	179.6	4.7	0.4
Fuel and utilities	122.4	-3.7	-0.1	122.3	-3.9	0.0
Fuels	113.0	-4.6	1.4	113.1	-4.7	1.3
Gas (piped) and electricity	111.4	-4.9	1.3	111.3	-5.0	1.2
Electricity	108.1	-6.0	0.7	108.1	-6.0	0.7
Utility natural gas service	199.8	18.7	11.1	199.8	18.7	11.1
Household furnishings and operation	161.1	-3.9	-0.2	156.1	-3.8	-0.4
Apparel	157.9	-5.3	1.7	171.2	-3.7	3.4
Transportation	165.1	7.8	3.2	163.2	8.6	3.5
Private transportation	165.2	8.5	3.3	163.4	9.2	3.6
Motor fuel	151.5	39.5	12.1	151.5	39.5	12.1
Gasoline (all types)	150.0	39.4	12.1	150.0	39.4	12.1
Regular unleaded (2)	149.0	44.4	13.4	149.0	44.4	13.4
Midgrade unleaded (2) (3)	140.5	37.9	11.8	140.5	37.9	11.8
Premium unleaded (2)	149.0	35.8	11.3	149.0	35.8	11.4
Medical care	272.3	4.3	0.7	272.2	4.9	0.7
Recreation (4)	110.5	1.9	2.0	108.3	1.4	1.9
Education and communication (4)	106.1	1.8	-0.7	106.8	1.9	-0.7
Other goods and services	240.1	1.7	0.4	233.2	2.0	0.5
SPECIAL AGGREGATE INDEXES						
Commodities	165.1	1.5	1.5	165.2	2.2	1.8
Commodities less food and beverages	150.7	1.8	2.0	152.8	2.9	2.6
Nondurables less food and beverages	157.0	6.7	4.3	160.9	8.4	5.3
Durables	146.4	-3.5	-0.5	143.4	-3.6	-0.6
Services	193.6	4.0	1.3	191.4	4.2	1.4
All items less medical care	175.5	3.0	1.4	173.7	3.3	1.6
All items less shelter	177.5	2.1	1.3	174.8	2.5	1.5
Commodities less food	152.2	1.7	2.0	153.3	2.7	2.5
Nondurables	173.0	3.5	2.2	174.0	4.3	2.7
Nondurables less food	158.9	6.1	4.1	161.1	7.9	5.0
Energy	128.2	14.7	6.8	127.4	16.1	7.1
All items less energy	186.1	2.3	1.0	184.6	2.4	1.2
All items less food and energy	185.9	2.4	1.0	184.4	2.6	1.2
Purchasing power of the consumer						
dollar: 1982-84=\$1.00	\$.555	-	-	\$.562	-	-
November 1977=\$1.00	\$.344	-	-	\$.346	-	-

1/ Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

2/ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample

- Data not available.

3/ Index is on a December 1993=100 base.

4/ Index is on a December 1997=100 base.